

• C o u n t e r p o i s e •

The Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

Volume XLVII

December 2006

Number 12



Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon meets every 2nd Thursday at 7:00 pm at the First Lutheran Church of El Cajon. The address is 867 South Lincoln Ave. Next meeting:

December 14, 2006 7:00 pm

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All Official written communication is to be submitted to:

A.R.C.E.C. P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

The Counterpoise is a publication of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). It is published once monthly and contributions are accepted from officers and members of the club. We also encourage input from members of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon. Opinions expressed are solely that of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). Articles may be submitted either by e-mail or mail to the editor.

Paul Rios at:

WA6BGScouterpoise@cox.net or by post
1237 Victor Ave #4, El Cajon, CA 92021

The Deadline is Sunday after the General Meeting.

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

Web Site: <http://www.wa6bgs.org>

Counterpoise E-Mail address

WA6BGScouterpoise@cox.net



Voting at the December Meeting
12-14-2006 , 7PM

2006 Officers

President	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Vice-President	AI6O	Ed Felter	668-0928
Secretary	N6OPH	Mike Maston	296-9067
Treasurer	KF6WXA	Susan Kochel	445-6067
Past President	KG6JCW	Mike "Stogie" Panger	263-4439

2006 Board of Directors

Affiliated Clubs	AE6AV	Larry Plummer	460-1818
Public Service	N6NKJ	Rich Beisigl	444-5465
Prizes	WA6PPG	Carl Ferree	328-2694
Membership	KC6TBG	Ann Rios	593-9445
Instructor	AE6QW	Gordon Shackelford	561-6323
Social	KD6PRV	Anselmo Ruiz	574-0720

2006 Standing Committee

Club Attire	K6PKS	Paul Schmidt	733-2284
SANDARC Delegate	K5WFW	Len Fulbright	258-1322
Public Relations	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Counterpoise Editor	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Education	N6OPH	Mike Maston	296-9067
Estate Sales	N6JOJ	Tom Myrick	449-3547
Field Day	AI6O	Ed Felter	668-0928
Health & Welfare	KF6XY	John Cordle	697-2700
Historian	OPEN		
Net Manager	KG6TDP	Mike O	444-9090
Post Mistress	KC6TBG	Ann Rios	593-9445
Technical	W6RHV	Bob Boehme	448-4728
Ticket Lady	KI6EEK	Lisie Rios	
Swap Meet	N6JOJ	Tom Myrick	449-3547
Bylaws	KF6XY	John Cordle	697-2700
WA6BGS Trustee	AE6CQ	Michael Martak	562-6477
WAMO	W6CCM	Erich Bennett	401-7332
Web Master	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445

Staff and Writers:

KC6QLS	Paul	Editor
AI6O	ED	Vice President
N6OPH	Mike	Meeting Minutes
KI6FIH	Tassy	HAM Spot Light
W6CCM	Erich	WAMO Report
W5COM	Tom	Jokes
KG6PSK	Mark	The A.R.E.S Connection
KK6MS	John	Down Below in EC
WA6MHZ	Pat	Crest Radio Museum
KI6EEL	Bridget	Photos

SANTEE DRIVE-IN SWAP MEET

10990 Woodside Ave., North
FOR INFORMATION, CALL 449-SWAP
Ham Radio, Computers, Electronics
ACRES & ACRES OF BARGAINS
1st & 3rd Saturday of the Month
GATES OPEN 6:30 AM

From The President

Paul KC6QLS



WOW, the year went fast. As I reflect on everything we did in my first year as President for your club, I say we have come a long way. Membership is up! Ed booked every meeting with a speaker or program. Field Day was one of the best ever. We completed our second year in the Mother Goose Parade, still have money in the bank, and things are moving forward.

We have tried some new ideas, some have worked out and some are still in the works. I would like to get some kind of an *Elmer* program going for all the new hams that have joined the club. I have been asked by new hams what kind of antenna to get, what is the best radio, and how to set up their radio. I believe an Elmer program is needed to aid them in their questions.

We will continue to grow and make our club fun, interesting, and one of the best Ham Clubs west of the Rockies.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Christmas party and wish all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

73,
Paul Rios, KC6QLS
President

AI6O	FELTER FINANCIAL GROUP, INC Financial and Estate Planning
	Ed Felter, President
8080 La Mesa Blvd Suite #113 La Mesa CA 91941 Phone: (619) 668-0929 Fax: (619) 668-5666 E-mail: edfelter@pacbell.net	

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

General Membership Meeting
9 November 2006



The general membership meeting of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon was called to order by the club President Paul, KC6QLS at 1900hrs. After the pledge of allegiance new members were welcomed. Paul, KC6QLS announced that the club received a \$220 donation from Louis, WB6CAO.

SECRETARY'S: report as published in the *Counterpoise* was approved as published.

EDUCATION: report was given by Mike, N6OPH. He stated that the extra theory course has ended and the next class would be the technician class which will start in January 2007.

TREASURER: Susan, KF6WXA gave her report. It was approved as read and filed for audit.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE: chairman John, KF6XY presented the committee report. The nominees are:

For President: Paul Rios, KC6QLS
For Vice President: Ed Felter, AI6O
For Secretary: Mike Maston, N6OPH
For Treasurer: Stogie Panger, KG6JCW
For the Board of directors: Ann Rios, KC6TBG;
Larry Plummer, AE6AV; Rich Beisigl, N6NKJ;
Gordon Shackelford, AE6QW;
Anselmo Ruiz, KD6PRV; Carl Ferree, WA6PPG;
Mike Oberbauer KG6TDP; and
Walter Buck KG6SDK.

The club President called for nominations from the floor. There were no further nominations and nominations were then closed.

Paul, KC6QLS called for nominations for Ham of the Year. The following nominees were submitted: Tom Bryan, W5COM; Ed Felter, AI6O; Susan Kochel, KF6WXA; Tom Myrick, N6JOJ; Paul Rios, KC6QLS; Cal Tyler, KG6FBV; Gordon Shackelford, AE6QW and Mike Maston, N6OPH. A paragraph on each candidate will be submitted to the *Counterpoise* editor by the person that nominated the candidate. The voting for Ham of the Year will take place during the December general membership meeting.

SILENT AUCTION: winner was Mike, N6OPH who bid \$5 for a \$10 gift certificate at Genos restaurant in El Cajon.

Paul, KC6QLS appointed three judges for The Home Brew contest. They are Carl, WA6PPG; Gordon, AE6QW; and Bill, K6QB. They will be judging all of the projects on display. Each of the Home Brew project designers explained and demonstrated their submissions. After the break, when the judging was complete, the winners were announced.

For the antenna category: Tom, W5COM for the 6 meter homebrew antenna.

For the advanced category the first prize went to Pat, WA6MHZ for the 1.2 gig and for second prize was Rich, NJ6F for his PSK adaptor.

PRESIDENT: Rios spoke about some problems with the water district where the club repeater is located on their property. Arrangements are being made to set up a station and receive credentials for the volunteers to help operate the station for drills or emergencies.

COUNTERPOISE Editor: Paul announced some changes in the format and a new writer John Graf KK6MS. His column will be called "Down Below in El Cajon."

VICE PRESIDENT: Ed announced that the December meeting would be the election of officers and selection of the Ham of the Year. The Christmas party will be held on 18 December at the Home Town Buffet in El Cajon.

AFFILIATED CLUBS: report was given by Len, K5WFW. He reported that SANDARC may be moving their website to a new server location. There is a possibility that by-laws may be changed to accommodate the admission of the Tijuana Amateur Radio Society. The council appointed a transition committee for the 2010 convention planning. Paul Rios, KC6QLS was appointed to chair this committee. It was moved and seconded that the club support any change that SANDARC may need to make to their by-laws to accommodate the admission of the Mexican group.

MEMBERSHIP: Chairperson Ann, KC6TBG announced that there are 234 members of the club. There were 43 members and 3 guests in attendance at tonight's meeting.

WAMO nets are held on Wednesday and Saturday as well as the digital WAMO that is held mid-week.

CLUB ATTIRE: Jackets are \$18 and T-shirts are \$6 and the caps are \$7.

ARES: Representative Mark, KG6PSK announced that the next ARES Meeting will be held next Saturday. There being no further business before the general membership, the meeting was adjourned at 2100hrs.

Respectfully Submitted

Michael Paul Maston, N6OPH
Secretary
Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon



From The Vice President AI6O ED



I certainly hope that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving season. We have so much to be thankful for here in the USA and right here in our own localities. The freedoms we possess, the bounties we enjoy, the privileges that are ours, and the possibilities we can pursue provide us with so many reasons to give thanks. Not the least of which are the many friendships and opportunities for service through this thing call Amateur Radio. I know you join me in my excitement and thankfulness for the powerful combination of services we can render and, at the same time, the fun and joy we can experience through ham radio. Especially through ARCEC! Thanks, ladies and gentlemen!

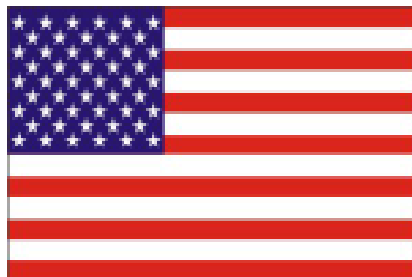
I urge all members to come out to the December meeting and exercise your vote for officers. Also, I truly hope that we can fill up the Home Town Buffet in El Cajon for our annual Christmas dinner party. Put it on your calendar right now!

Be sure to take a look at the new Band Plan that will take effect on December 15, 2006. There are some real changes on some bands and other bands have few, if any, changes.

I will wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season. I hope 2007 will be as successful for ARCEC as was 2006, thanks to each and every member. One way or another, I know I will be there to help build this great club!

Straight ahead!

Ed Felter, AI6O



WA6BGS Nets

Mike Oberbauer:	KG6TDP	Net Manger
Mike Oberbauer:	KG6TDP	Net Controller
Frito	N6WKB	Wide Open Nets
Ed Felter	AI6O	WAMO/D

WAMO NETS:

Wednesday and Saturday Nights
8:00 pm local time 7:30 "Checkins"

Tuesday Night Rag Chew net:
8:00 pm

Nets held on club repeaters

WA6BGS Repeaters

RX 146.475 (147.420) 107.2 PL

RX 224.080 – 107.2 PL

RX 445.900 – 107.2 PL

Don't miss it. All members welcome.



New WAMO/D Net

ARCEC, San Diego Digital VHF Net

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Day: Thurs. "Except 2nd Thurs. of the month"

Mode: PSK31

Frequency: 50.290 MHz. and a QSY to 144.144 MHz

This is an open net and all are invited. Early check-ins will be taken. Hope to see you on the waterfall!

WAMO means Worked All Members Only. The purpose of WAMO is to encourage people to people communication between club members and to publicize the name of the club among fellow amateurs.


Calendar of Events December 2006

Dec.	2:	Swap Meet, Santee Drive In, 6:30 am
Dec.	2:	T-Hunt, Grossmont College lot, 6:00 pm
Dec.	5:	Board Meeting, 7:00 pm
Dec.	9:	ARES Meeting, 8:00 am
Dec.	14:	Club Elections
Dec.	14:	General Meeting, 7:00 pm
Dec.	16:	Swap Meet, Santee Drive In, 6:30 am
Dec.	16:	T-Hunt, Grossmont College lot, 6:00 pm
Dec.	18:	ARCEC Christmas Dinner "Hometown"
Dec.	19:	Counterpoise Dead Line
Dec.	25:	Christmas Day

Upcoming Event Dates

Jan.	9:	Technician Class Starts call N6OPH
Jan.	11:	Placement of 2007 Officers
June		Del Mar Fair Volunteers
June		Field Day Volunteers

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Tom Mc Duffie KM6K, Manager
5375 Kearny Villa Road
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 560-4900 or 1-800-854-6046

The Counterpoise is also online in FULL COLOR. Check it out and the club's website at: www.wa6bgs.org

Get your advanced copy by e-mail. I will send it out in .PDF format the night it goes to print. E-mail me and let me know that you would like a copy. Size of file may be up to 1.5 mb at times.

Change of Address

Moving?

Do not miss an issue of the Counterpoise. Fill out the Change of address form below.

Call _____ WAMO# _____
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
New Address:
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send to Membership Chairperson:
A.R.C.E.C./ P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

ARCEC Membership Application

1. Amateur Call Sign	2. Class of License
3. First Name	4. Last Name
5. Street Address	6. City, State, Zip+4
7. Home Phone	8. Work Phone
May we list: Y N	
9. DOB	10. e-mail
11. ARRL Member Yes no	12. ARES Member Yes No
13. RACES Member Yes No	14. Sponsored by: or Family Member

Return this form with check made payable to the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon or ARCEC for new or renewal membership. Annual Dues \$18.00 for Individual, \$30.00 for family. New members add \$5.00 per member. Include your call on Check. Mail to
Membership Chairperson
A.R.C.E.C, P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

New () or Renewal ()	WAMO Number
Certificate Issued	Dues from _____ To _____
Paid Cash ()	Check No.
Check ()	Date Paid:

Computer Roster Available

Want the roster sent to you via e-mail? Send an e-mail to Ann Rios KC6TBG, and she will send you the database back as an attachment. She uses Excel, but may be able to convert to various formats if asked. Send your request to 619-593-9445 or KC6TBG@cox.net

FUN PAGE

Birthdays December

December 1	K6PZE	Richard	Gird
December 1	KK7MQ	Jeff	Chambers
December 4	KD6WFT	Lee	Darter
December 6	KC6QLS	Paul	Rios
December 7	KI6DTA	Gloria	Lyons
December 8	KD6JXR	Tom	Walker
December 12	KI6EEL	Bridget	Rios
December 16	KB7NG	Bob	Bostick
December 18	K6PKS	Paul	Schmidt
December 19	KF6YVK	Mary	Durante-Le Leu
December 21	KC6TBG	Ann	Rios
December 22	KN6HP	Lee	Sheeler
December 23	KD6CYS	Claude	Gunnersen
December 25	KF6XB	Russ	Davison Jr
December 29	K7BAV	Jim	Gould
December 29	KI6DZG	Nicholas	Lang
December 30	KD6YAT	Jim	Logan
December 30	KE6THZ	Paul	Adams
December 31	N6IEF	Mike	Lebo
December ?		Carrie	Brummund (L)
December ?		Ruth	Rogers

Did I miss your Birthday or is yours next month?
Your Birthday may not be on the Roster.

E-mail me: WA6BGScouterpoise@cox.net

Brain Thinker

New! Brain Thinkers! You have to put your Brain in gear and "hope it is the right one"

Example: 1=E. on a C.

Answers: 1 Eye on a Cyclops

2 = P. in a P.

3 = W. M. at B.

1000 = W. that a P. is W.

Answers will be next month's Counterpoise

Word Search "Holidays the Ham Way"

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F R I E N D S H I P W B K L B
B A N W O W P O W S G L O W S
O D V L H Z I X J L E V A R T
S I I B D S R B A Z D W B D H
L O T O X V I V K Y B H N L E
U P A R T Y T M S W Y O J O B
F W T K S B O H D G I F T S U
K B I H W N W Q A T M D W H T
N H O L I D A Y A N O L D X M
A V N X M T J C N B K V R B U
H A B S K X I B T H N S A C U
T C D J Y N V F E A S T C L C
W A L S U H L U N L K J L D A
O T O M Z K H N N Z D O S Z V
L I M A X Y T F A S L H Q L S
S O W H K S S A M T S I R H C
C N D E Q U I P M E N T B O W
    
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- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ANTENNA | <input type="checkbox"/> JOY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATION | <input type="checkbox"/> PARTY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EQUIPMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> QSL CARD |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FEAST | <input type="checkbox"/> RADIO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FRIENDSHIP | <input type="checkbox"/> SAFTY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FUN | <input type="checkbox"/> SPIRIT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GIFTS | <input type="checkbox"/> THANKFUL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HAMS | <input type="checkbox"/> TRAVEL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HOLIDAY | <input type="checkbox"/> VACATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> INVITATION | <input type="checkbox"/> VACUUM TUBE |

Bonus Word ☐ GLOW

Check for the HIDDEN WORD!

Last Months Word Search

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T R A N S F O R M E R C P W D
R M N W P B W M P L E A M E B
A O T E D M J K C E C P B J K
N R E S I S T O R C E A W I M
S P N B D O P B D T I C Y X O
J W N J E W X V O R V I A D R
S M A K A C M W V O E R J S
T U C O M G D O K N R O I O E
O H O M E B R E W I S R A N C
R C I R U I T A G C M W B O O
W V L D V G I R C U I T L I D
V O L T A G E P V W B G E I E
P G K C G E C H X M E K D A J
O X E N O H P O R C I M B J M
B K V D W B K N Y O W Q L S W
Y T I V I T A L R C D O V P O
M D O J R E I L I F I L P M A
    
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Nominations for Ham of the Year



Tom Myrick, N6JOJ

For as long as I have known Tom, N6JOJ, he has had the distinguished title of Estate Equipment Coordinator.

On the first Saturday of each and every month you could see his smiling face at the Santee Swap

Meet representing and helping the El Cajon ARC. In the process he is also helping the surviving family members of silent keys by the equitable disappropriation of their amateur radio equipment. This task is time consuming and requires patience, especially after a long week at NASSCO. For his efforts and endeavors, I recommend Tom Myrick, N6JOJ for HAM of the Year Award.

- Tom Tennyson, WB6RSG



Gordon Shackelford, AE6QW

Gordon Shackelford is my choice for this honor. I recently attended his Extra and General Theory Classes. His great enthusiasm for our hobby came through in these classes.

Gordon is very giving of his time.

Each class was two hours long, and he spent many more hours preparing for each session. Those who attended his classes benefited from his many years of experience as an Electronics Engineer and Technician. Gordon currently also teaches at a local college. I now have a much better understanding of how transmitters, receivers, antennas, etc., work. Gordon welcomed our questions and always gave an explanation that simplified things. I now feel that with a little more study I will be an Extra Class Licensee soon. He also gave a quick antenna course at a recent club meeting. These are some of the reasons I feel Gordon should be Ham of the Year.

- Floyd Lang, KI6DUU

Mike Maston, N6OPH



All of those who were nominated for Ham of the Year are great candidates for this award, including my choice for this honor. Mike Maston has been a member of our club since 1986 and has held various elected offices starting in 1996.

Through the years, Mike has held the following offices: Secretary eight years total; President, one year; and Field day safety officer, three years. Mike Maston has been chairman of SANDARC since 2001. During this time, he has been involved in several ARRL Conventions, one of which was held this past September and was very successful. Mike is also very much involved with the VE program. This is why I nominate Michael Maston, N6OPH, for Ham of the Year.

- Rich Beisigl, N6NKJ

Susan Kochel, KF6WXA



Susan Kochel, KF6WXA has been club treasurer for many years serving under at least two club presidencies. Being the treasurer of a club is not a difficult job as it defined in our constitution and by-laws, but rather the occupant of that office melds with the

causes and vicissitudes of the times. In this case, Susan rises to top. She has been instrumental in saving the club piles of money but more importantly advising the president and the board of directors when changes or dangers rear their ugly heads. She has prevented the club from unnecessary spending and has been able to foresee the consequences of projected actions. This is something that not all people are able to accomplish, but Susan has. Besides her work as the club treasurer, she has also volunteered for non treasurer jobs at Field Day and the Mother Goose Parade. Susan is now heading for a well deserved retirement.

- Mike Maston, N6OPH

Nominations for Ham of the Year



Tom Bryan, W5COM

I nominate Tom W5COM for his can do spirit and out of the box thinking in taking on the complicated tasks of unique antenna design. This Texas born gentleman goes where others fear to tread in taking on the building of small efficient antennas that are as effective as a full size dipoles at lower heights, can run a full 1KW SSB

and lower the noise at the same time without having to strangle the birds with hundreds of feet of wire or monster towers. His bird house looking antennas and others make everyone happy from the snoopy old neighbor ladies to the humming birds and challenge the long held stubborn notions, that bigger is better.

As a senior ham, his cordial open nature helps to bring new hams into the fold. His jokes in the Counterpoise are great, and he works many modes and all the bands, as a rounded out ham. His open nature and great attitude fosters good will and promotes the hobby from dangerous Spring Valley, where he and his wife have resided for many years comforted in knowing that his many lightning rods around his ranch make it just a little less dangerous. My hats off to a great Ham of the Year.

- Rich Klotsche NJ6F



One of the Stations on the Float

Cal Tyler, KG6FBV

Cal has been a big help with the club. He goes out of his way to help during Field day by bringing up equipment, cooking, cleaning and anything that he sees needs to be done. He even gets on the air and makes contacts. He brings donuts to the meetings and helps promote amateur radio in every possible way he knows how. As an

amateur radio operator for only a few years he has learned how to make antennas and has taken to amateur radio like a pro. He used his carpentry skills to build the Mother Goose Parade float in 2005. He is always doing something behind the scene to promote amateur radio and helping the club in all ways he can. He always has a story to tell or a joke to share. And he does all this and cares for his wife and her needs when she gets real sick. He also helps his neighbors using his many talents.

- Susan Kochel, KF6WXA



Ed Felter, AI6O

Ed Felter has completed his first year as vice president of the ARCEC and what a year it has been. He secured diverse and interesting speakers for each meeting. He chaired Field Day, contributing to one of the best Field Days the ARCEC has seen in a while complete with seven

working stations and many back up radios. Ed's organization and leadership were seen throughout the event from the installation of antennas to cooking and breakdown. Ed's vision resulted in the ARCEC's PSK-31 WAMO Digital Net called the San Diego Digital VHF Net on 50.291 MHz which is held on Thursday evenings. This has provided club members with a new mode of communication and an opportunity to work WAMO's on PSK-31. The PSK-31 new net has sparked a new interest in WAMO's. Ed also participated in the Open House at the El Cajon Fire Station. Ed's positive, encouraging, can do personality and friendly nature is the reason why I believe he was nominated for Ham of the Year.

- Paul Rios, KC6QLS



Nominations Continued

Paul Rios, KC6QLS



Paul Rios has completed his first year as President of the ARCEC. During this time he has accomplished several things on behalf of the club. He started out with updating our Bylaws and posting them for the general membership on the club website. He started a Silent Auction wherein he obtains donations to

the club from businesses in our community and auctions those off to club members to help raise funds for the club. He was instrumental in obtaining and setting up a logging program for use at Field Day that allowed us to quickly log our contacts. This year's annual picnic was well attended and included a T-Hunt by the San Diego T-Hunters. This T-Hunt was a lot of fun and many had the opportunity to learn about this aspect of amateur radio. Several requests were made for the T-Hunters to return to next year's picnic. Paul arranged for the ARCEC to participate in the Open House at the El Cajon Fire Station during which he and Ed AI6O had the opportunity to discuss amateur radio with the general public. He also volunteered at the 2006 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention. Lastly, Paul chaired the Second Annual Mother Goose Parade Committee which was a big success and a lot of fun. One of Paul's main goals this year has been to put "fun" back in amateur radio, and I believe this was why he was nominated for Ham of the Year.

- Ann Rios, KC6TBG

Christmas Party

December 18, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

Hometown Buffet
920 West Main Street
El Cajon, California 92020

Phone (619) 441-6477

Pay at the door, normal dinner price, and sit in our designated area. We will eat then have our presentation.

Volunteers Needed

Upcoming Events

New List Coming Soon!!!

Please Sign up at the next meeting

NEW E-Mail

Address for the Counterpose. Please submit *Counterpoise* Mail to:

WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net

Prize Table Needs Help

Thank you for your contributions to the Prize Table! We still need your Support and Help or it may just end up a thing of the past. To Help, contact WA6PPG Carl Ferree at 328-2694 e-mail at cferree@IEEE.ORG

Things to keep in mind

Get on the El Cajon ARC Reflector

To sign up visit:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/elcajonarc/>

You will get the latest news about The Club and things going on in the Ham world.

Quote of the Month

"What you do not want done to yourself, do not do to others."

- Confucius Ibid. 15:20



Plaza Las Palmas Center
1255 Avocado Ave. Suite 103,
El Cajon, CA 92020 (619) 440-4031

Chicken Noodle Soup For the Ham Radio Operator's Soul

"ARRL Contest Department Announces "Silent Key Night"

Turmoil and change have shaken the ranks of our hobby in recent years. Controversy over incentive licensing, the role of the code, and concern over the dwindling ranks of our hobby have caused angst and sown the seeds of division among hams, young and old. Now, with the spring of renewal in Cycle 23 upon us, it is time for a healing catharsis for our hobby, with "Chicken Noodle Soup for the Ham Radio Operator's Soul".

An innovative development in Amateur Radio contesting has been announced by the Contest Department at the Newington-based ARRL. In a recent Newington press conference, ARRL spokesperson Terry Jennings-Hargsgood-Bergroyne-Hasselflat explained the latest CW contest offering from the League to assembled members of the press. The newly announced contest, "*Silent Key Night™*" is designed to stimulate interest in contesting among rank and file Hams and swell the ranks of the Ham Radio contest community. A partnership between the ARRL and the FCC, "*Silent Key Night™*" has been described as an innovative development for a branch of the hobby described by some as declining.

Jennings-Hargsgood-Bergroyne-Hasselflat provided insight into the thinking behind the new contest offering. "The contest, referred to in Ham circles as "*SKN*", is a creative effort to "resurrect" countless callsigns which have expired long ago due to the passing of the original FCC license holder. The League has long recognized the need to increase activity on U.S. Amateur Radio frequency allocations. The challenge has been to stimulate that needed activity in the face of declining Ham numbers." "*Silent Key Night™*" is the brainchild of League Contest Department Manager and long-time contester Ivan Urinmylog WD2IML.

The contest, which is conducted over one of the rare, open weekends not already "booked" by a previously scheduled Ham Radio contest, involves U.S. Ham Radio operators, operating CW, and pretending to be Hams from long ago, putting old Amateur Radio calls on the air for the contest weekend. The FCC re-assigns long-expired Amateur callsigns to present-day Hams who assume the identity of a long past Ham Radio operator. The callsigns are "rented" by contest participants who celebrate a Ham life well lived, for a nominal fee

charged by the League. The callsigns may have once been assigned to an "elmer", personal acquaintance, or relative.

"Planning for "*Silent Key Night™*" was radically different than any other ARRL contest", explains Jennings-Hargsgood-Bergroyne-Hasselflat. "Under terms of the contest, ARRL 'rents' the right to operate a previously held callsign". Limited by personnel considerations, the FCC has entered into a partnership with the League, where verification of eligibility of contest applicants and assignment of once-suspended callsigns is administered by ARRL staff. "Due to the sensitive nature of the call assignment process, all applicants are required to apply by phone to the League" explains Jennings-Hargsgood-Bergroyne-Hasselflat. "We recognized many contest applicants would be applying for callsigns previously assigned to a Ham who had a close personal or emotional relationship with them, an elmer, close friend, or perhaps a family member. This required utmost sensitivity in the contest administration process". For guidance in handling transactions of such a sensitive nature, the League turned to the National Funeral Directors Association, a nationally recognized leader in grief counseling and bereavement issues. "The ARRL was dying to obtain access to our expertise" deadpans National Funeral Directors Association President W. Wentworth Stiffler. "The ARRL is entering into a relationship with members of the contest community at a potentially very sensitive point. Our association's guidance allows the League to conduct the transaction in a dignified and caring fashion, befitting the situation".

Jennings-Hargsgood-Bergroyne-Hasselflat adds another positive dimension of "*Silent Key Night™*" for the League. "Today, all League initiatives must have a positive 'impact' or 'log position' to League revenues, in order to offset staff expense and overhead. Revenue will offset contest expenses such as staff time to scan logs for 'dups', identifying mistakes during contest operation, and funding for 'contest personalities' or "*ARRL Certified Contest Policemen*". Fees for "rental" of the long-unused callsigns are paid directly to the FCC in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and revenue is shared equally with the League.

Unlike conventional contests, "*Silent Key Night™*" will offer an unusual twist to a contesting favorite - "the contest soapbox". Rather than the usual comments on contest operation by participants, the "soapbox" will be a forum for memorial tributes to long-past callsign holders honored by participants. Early "soapbox" postings reveal moving, sensitive

Chicken Noodle Continued

tributes to Hams friends long past. *"Bill, old buddy, we miss you. Those nights we operated on M.A.R.S. were out of this world. Thanks, OM"* reads one tribute. Another posting is from a radio spouse; *"Bob, my RF muffin. The gang misses your commentaries on kidney dialysis. 75 meter phone will never be the same."* Contest plaques, another contesting institution, will be replaced by contest "headstones" awarded to contest winners and engraved with the names and memorial tributes to "Silent Key Night™" winners.

Approval of "Silent Key Night™" was never a certainty. Contest Department Manager Urinmylog faced a skeptical League Board concerned the contest might provide an opportunity for "lids" to imitate a long-passed Ham, and make light of individual operating peculiarities or operate in a way that diminishes the enjoyment of others. Ultimately, the Board was reassured by the presence in the contest of well-known FCC "enforcer" Rollie Hollingsworth K4XYZ, who reminded the Amateur contest community he would "single out for special attention" any Ham using the contest to ridicule or cast dispersions on long-past Hams.

Described by some as "ghoulish" "Silent Key Night™" is not without it's detractors. Following the Newington press conference, *RadioWorld Magazine* publisher and baking soda tycoon Armond Hammer AZ6RW was overheard commenting to a staffer; "This is wacked. I can't believe the League Board is allowing this to happen. This makes the Kurt N. Sterba "Aerials" column seem downright respectable."

"Silent Key Night™" results will be published in *QST*, the monthly magazine of the ARRL.

Editors note: "Chicken Noodle Soup" readers are reminded to participate in club activities, support public service efforts, and get on the air and operate, in order to give future Hams something to celebrate.

"Morris Code AZ6CW"



Testing and Classes

VEC Testing Sites

1 st Saturday:	El Cajon 10:00 am First Lutheran Church of EC 867 South Lincoln Ave.
2 nd Saturday:	Carlsbad 9:30 am Carlsbad Safety Center Orion Way Carlsbad
3 rd Saturday:	North Park 10:00 am North Park Recreation Center 4044 Idaho Street San Diego
4 th Saturday:	Chula Vista 8:30am CV Fire Station #7 1640 Santa Ventia
5 th or last Saturday:	Escondido 9:00 am Escondido Fire Department 310 North Quince St.,

To make advance reservations or to find out more info from the site captain, please call 465-EXAM (3926)

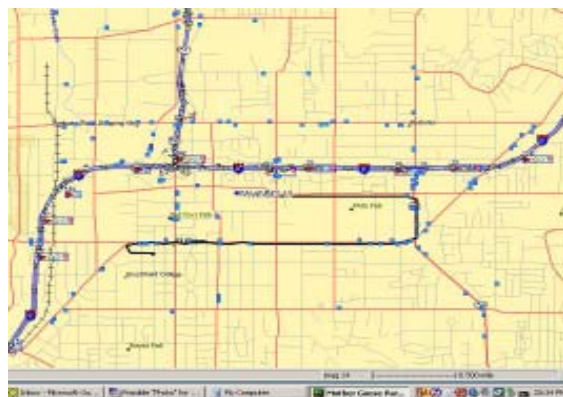
Club Attire

***** Shirts on hand. Call for Sizes *****

Get your jackets, hats and t-shirts.

Show off your club colors and let all know that the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon is strong and growing.

Contact: K6PKS Paul Schmidt (619) 733-2284



Pat had APRS on the float, and here is the APRS Map of the Float on the Parade Route

Submitted by; Ed Sack, W3NRG, W6MO #1716.

The Editor's Corner KC6QLS Paul



Editor's Corner:

Thank you to all who submit articles to the Counterpoise. Please remember that in order to receive your newsletter timely, articles need to be submitted by the deadline so that I have time to put the newsletter together, submit it to the printer and get it to the post office so that it can be delivered to your mailbox prior to the next meeting so that you are aware of upcoming events. This is your newsletter and your input is needed.

73,
Paul, KC6QLS
Editor

Public Relations

We just finished the 2nd Mother Goose Parade and again all had fun this year. We had two vehicles in the Parade; Stogie, KG6JCW was in the first one giving out WAMO #000, and Dan, KI6FCR and Len, W5WFW were in the 2nd vehicle towing the float. All the riders were having fun, including our youngest hams in the club, KI6DZG, KI6FNE and KI6FMJ. We had Floyd, KI6DUU and Pat, WA6MHZ working the radios. Thank you Dan, KI6FCR for donating the trailer this year.

We had the parade spectators say, "Thanks for the help" and we even worked some emergency traffic. "Traffic" is the key word. A kid about 3 years old was running to the float in front of us and we got El Cajon's finest to keep the kid from getting run over. This is the kind of thing that we do everyday as Hams.

Next year will be even better. We have secured the trailer for next year so we can start the planning ahead of time. Thanks to all those who helped plan, build, and participated with the float this year. I'm looking forward to next year and would encourage everyone to participate as they are able to.

73, Paul, KC6QLS

Welcome New Members

New Members



WAMO 1718 Dan Severance KI6GJC



WAMO 1719 Mike Greene W6MTG
WAMO 1720 Karen Greene KI6AKV

WAMO 1717 Paul Cote K6PFC
WAMO 1721 Elaine Sack KG6ZXI
WAMO 1722 Dan Sack KG6WJP

Membership Pins ready for pick up at the next meeting:

KI6DTA	KI6JWB	K6AOS
KI6DTD	KI6DQJ	KG6WLS
W6REY	KG6SMT	
KG6IZW	W3NRG	

Thank you to all members who have renewed. Please check the mailing label on your Counterpoise. If your membership has expired, please take a moment to complete and return the Renewal Application located within this Counterpoise.

73 Ann, KC6TBG

Mother Goose Parade Photos



Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon
P.O. Box 50
El Cajon, CA 92022



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Is your membership ready to expire?

Take a look on your mailing label. Is the expiration date in 2006? Does it say EXPIRED? That means it's time to mail in your yearly dues. Please take time to fill out the membership application in this newsletter, and mail it in, or bring it to the next meeting.



Amateur Radio ... A National Resource